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research, but rather to encourage a thoughtful handling of problems in political science." The result in this case is a great relief from the "dry-as-dust" demonstration of indefatigable research which a doctor's thesis too often becomes. Without being in any sense puerile, the style of the essay is lively and the book will be found to be very readable, as well by those who are specially interested in its somewhat technical subject as by others. In fact there is a proneness to the selection of the more picturesque material and an occasional choice of language that leads one to suspect that the guiding hand of the late Professor Henry Loomis Nelson, under whose instruction the essay was begun and of Professor Smith the final editor, may have been needed occasionally to suppress the exuberance of youth. That the leash slipped occasionally will be shown by the following passage from page 211: "... the woeful struggle of Henry, bleached-out in mind, a dependent upon the efforts of a woman against the rising power of York; . . ." Still, making an essay of this sort more readable by such means is a pardonable fault if not an added grace. The only sense in which it is at fault is that in giving so much space to events in English history, which it might be assumed the reader would know, it curtails the space available for a fuller discussion of the special topic in hand.

It is not a gracious task for the reviewer to act as proof-reader on a finished book, yet the separation of the subject from the verb by a comma on page 68 and again at the bottom of page 94, and a sentence without expressed subject or verb, on page 135, as well as the rather too frequent omission of little words like "the" and the conjunctives, in an effort at sprightliness in style, are among the slips noted.

The essay gives in a clear and logical manner the main events in the development of the power of parliament over taxation from the first clear hint of the curbing of the power of the king in the twelfth and fourteenth chapters of the Magna Carta to the Bill of Rights of 1689. Of the latter the essayist says, on page 306: "In the matter of taxation, it sums up in a few clauses the whole principle which had been in course of evolution since the German chieftains received gifts of cattle and fruits from their people." With this the essay closes.

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**Paterson, A.** *Across the Bridges.* Pp. xiv, 273. Price, \$1.70. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1911.

Nothing can be of richer interest than an insight into the multifarious vicissitudes of human life. In terse English, clever style and with unusual directness the author of this book tells us what he saw "Across the Bridges" and speaks of the life, hopes, trials and ambitions of the endless poor of East London. Embellishment with incidents, color and illustration, all add to the power and vitality of the story.

There is a brief but vivid account of the streets, homes and external environment of the poor. Then follow two chapters on their life and habits,

including a discussion of the early marriages, increasing extravagance and peculiar customs. One-half of the book is devoted to the problems of the youth. Pitiable indeed is the prospect for the newly-born babe. The child is taken through the elementary school with its handicaps and advantages and we see the physical and intellectual influences that continually play upon him. Again we see him out of school engaged in his various pastimes. Perhaps he enjoys a day's outing in the country—an experience of doubtful value according to the author. The picture of the boy at work, his lack of skill and the bitter problem of unemployment give much food for thought, but the sports and recreation enjoyed by the working boys offer some relief from this dismal scene. Morals and the religious life are better understood when we learn of the associations and traditions. Some noteworthy observations are made on the juvenile offender and a brief account is given of his disposition before the courts and his subsequent treatment.

The pathetic relation of the age of parents and size of family to the curves of prosperity and adversity and the serious outlook of the workingmen are briefly pictured as well as the grim consequences in blighted love and disrupted family relations. Many poor lose all hope and are precipitated into the lowest stratum of human wreckage.

Finally, no one can understand the problems of the poor, their habits, customs and extravagances without much personal contact with them. There is need of knowledge. Gained in this way it provokes sympathy and helpfulness. Without these qualities intelligent social action is not possible.

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**Pennington, A. Stuart.** *The Argentine Republic.* Pp. 352. Price, \$3.00.  
New York: F. A. Stokes Company, 1910.

Many books have been written about Argentine, but few have succeeded in giving as comprehensive a view of the country as is afforded in this volume. It is in effect a handbook of information on all important subjects, yet presented in readable form. The items covered include physical features, population, government, history, flora, fauna, geology, industries and products, literature, politics and the life in Argentine.

The history of the country is given more space than any other topic, covering about one-fourth of the book. Its discussion is taken up in four periods, that of the Adelantados, the colonial, the viceroys and the republic. These chapters, together with the one on population, give a good background for an understanding of the present development of the country as it has been influenced by physical features and resources.

The average reader is likely to feel that the discussion of flora and fauna is largely a waste of space, which might much better have been devoted to a more extensive discussion of Argentine resources, industrial and commercial possibilities. About three times as much space is devoted to the former topics, while many pages in both chapters on flora and fauna are devoted simply to a cataloguing of varieties. For example, few persons